

GREENWorks

Ideas for a Cleaner Environment

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Moving? Have a Plan to Dispose of Hazardous Materials

Selling your home and moving usually means cleaning out many items that you would rather not take with you. As you dig deeper into closets, the basement and garage, these items mount up – leftover paint, unused insect spray, gasoline for the lawnmower, pool chemicals and more!

Also, as a real estate closing condition, you may be required to remove all household hazardous wastes from your home. Commercial disposal of household hazardous wastes can be extremely expensive. If not removed from your home, the disposal costs may be deducted from the sale price of your home. In addition, your mover is not allowed to transport hazardous chemicals to your new home either.

What products are household hazards?

We use hazardous products every day in our homes. These products become a hazard when improper use or disposal will cause a threat to the environment or human health. Many common household products, such as paints, solvents, drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, waxes, pesticides, cleaning agents and spent automotive products, have hazardous properties. The properties that make these products hazardous are:

- Flammable: Easily set on fire or ignited.
- Corrosive/Caustic: Burn and destroy living tissue on contact.
- Explosive/Reactive: Detonate or explode by exposure to heat, sudden shock or pressure.
- Toxic/Poison: Capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or absorption through the skin.

Have a Diposal Plan:

- Check labels to identify which items are hazardous household wastes.
- Set aside those products that you will use up before you move or will personally transport to your new home.
- Ask the new resident, friends or neighbors if they want any of the remaining products.
- Check with your city or town as to when the next household hazardous waste collection day will be held, and take any remaining waste to the collection.

- Do NOT dispose of any chemicals, petroleum products or other hazardous wastes down the drain or on the ground. It is against the law and it contaminates the groundwater and potentially drinking water wells.

For more information or if you have further questions, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (603) 271-2047 or e-mail hhw@des.state.nh.us.

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